
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

MAY 21, 1888.

Mr. BLAIR introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor.

A BILL

To secure to the people the enjoyment of the first day of the week, commonly known as the Lord's day, as a day of rest, and to promote its observance as a day of religious worship.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That no person, or corporation, or agent, servant, or employee
4 of any person or corporation shall perform or authorize to be
5 performed any secular work, labor, or business to the distur-
6 bance of others, works of necessity, and mercy, and humanity
7 excepted; nor shall any person engage in any play, game, or
8 amusement, or recreation to the disturbance of others on the
9 first day of the week, commonly known as the Lord's day, or
10 during any part thereof, in any Territory, district, vessel, or
11 place subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States;
12 nor shall it be lawful for any person or corporation to receive
13 pay for labor or service performed or rendered in violation
14 of this section.

1 SEC. 2. That no mails or mail matter shall hereafter be
2 transported in time of peace over any land postal-route, nor
3 shall any mail matter be collected, assorted, handled, or de-
4 livered during any part of the first day of the week : *Provided,*
5 That whenever any letter shall relate to a work of necessity or
6 mercy, or shall concern the health, life, or decease of any per-
7 son, and the fact shall be plainly stated upon the face of the
8 envelope containing the same, the Postmaster-General shall
9 provide for the transportation of such letter or letters in pack-
10 ages separate from other mail matter and shall make regula-
11 tions for the delivery thereof, the same having been received
12 at its place of destination before the said first day of the week,
13 during such limited portion of the day, as shall best suit the
14 public convenience and least interfere with the due observance
15 of the day as one of worship and rest: *And provided further,*
16 That when there shall have been an interruption in the due
17 and regular transmission of the mails it shall be lawful to so
18 far examine the same when delivered as to ascertain if there
19 be such matter therein for lawful delivery on the first day of
20 the week.

1 SEC. 3. That the prosecution of commerce between the
2 States and with the Indian tribes, the same not being work of
3 necessity, mercy, or humanity, by the transportation of per-
4 sons or property by land or water in such way as to interfere
5 with or disturb the people in the enjoyment of the first day

6 of the week, or any portion thereof, as a day of rest from
7 labor, the same not being labor of necessity, mercy, or human-
8 ity, or its observance as a day of religious worship, is hereby
9 prohibited, and any person or corporation, or the agent, serv-
10 ant, or employee of any person or corporation who shall
11 willfully violate this section shall be punished by a fine of
12 not less than ten nor more than one thousand dollars, and no
13 service performed in the prosecution of such prohibited com-
14 merce shall be lawful, nor shall any compensation be recov-
15 erable or be paid for the same.

1 SEC. 4. That all military and naval drills, musters, and
2 parades, not in time of active service or immediate prepara-
3 tion therefor, of soldiers, sailors, marines, or cadets of the
4 United States on the first day of the week, except assem-
5 blies for the due and orderly observance of religious worship,
6 are hereby prohibited, nor shall any unnecessary labor be
7 performed or permitted in the military or naval service of the
8 United States on the Lord's day.

1 SEC. 5. That it shall be unlawful to pay or to receive pay-
2 ment or wages in any manner for service rendered or for
3 labor performed or for the transportation of persons or of
4 property in violation of the provisions of this act, nor shall
5 any action lie for the recovery thereof, and when so paid,
6 whether in advance or otherwise, the same may be recovered
7 back by whoever shall first sue for the same.

1 SEC. 6. That labor or service performed and rendered on
2 the first day of the week in consequence of accident, disaster,
3 or unavoidable delays in making the regular connections upon
4 postal-routes and routes of travel and transportation, the preserva-
5 tion of perishable and exposed property and the regular and
6 necessary transportation and delivery of articles of food in condi-
7 tion for healthy use, and such transportation for short dis-
8 tances from one State, district, or Territory into another State,
9 district, or Territory as by local laws shall be declared to be
10 necessary for the public good shall not be deemed violations
11 of this act, but the same shall be construed so far as possible
12 to secure to the whole people rest from toil during the first
13 day of the week, their mental and moral culture, and the re-
14 ligious observance of the Sabbath day.

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